GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
TEAM OF EXPERTS FOR ASSESSMENT OF POOR
JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA;SHEELA GAUTAM;SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN;VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether team of experts constituted by the Planning Commission to assess the number and ratio of the poor persons has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations contained therein;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in submission of the report; and

(d) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENEGRY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) The Planning Commission had constituted the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor in September, 1989 in order to look into the methodology of estimation of poverty and to redefine the poverty line, if necessary. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993;

(b): The Expert Group recommended the following:

(i) The poverty line recommended by the Task Force on projection of minimum needs and effective consumption demand, namely a monthly per capita total expenditure of Rs.49.09 (rural) and Rs.56.64 (urban) rounded respectively to Rs.49 and Rs.57 at all India level at 1973-74 prices be adopted as the base line.

(ii) Disaggregation of the National level poverty line into state-specific poverty lines using state-specific price indices and index of inter-state price differential;

(iii) Updation of state-specific poverty lines by especially constructed price index for use in latter years;

(iv) Using the state-specific poverty lines as estimated in
(ii) above, estimation of state- specific poverty ratios from large sample survey data on consumption expenditure distribution obtained from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), without any adjustment to CSO level of consumption as was being done in the earlier Task Force method.

(c) and (d) : A Full Planning Commission meeting under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister accepted its recommendations with minor modifications in March, 1997.